

**Citizens Advisory Committee
Highway, Road, and Bridge Subcommittee**

Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2008

Aeronautics Auditorium
2700 East Airport Service Drive
Capital City Airport

Start Time: 9:20 a.m.

Present: Brent Bair, Dan DeGraaf, Keith Ledbetter, Robert Struck.

Absent: Mickey Blashfield, Mike Fikes, Russell Gronevelt, James Klett, William McFarlane, Steward Sandstrom, Kirk Steudle.

Mr. Struck opened the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves.

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion was seconded, and minutes from the April 18 meeting were unanimously approved.

Motion was made to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded, and the agenda for the meeting was unanimously approved.

Mr. Struck invited comment from members of the public, but none was forthcoming. Mr. Struck introduced guest Shorty Gleason, member of the Mackinac Bridge Authority.

Mr. Struck invited comment from members of the Subcommittee. Mr. Bair inquired about the extent of staff support by MDOT for the work of the Committee, and inquired when input would be received from MDOT. Tim Hoeffner of MDOT reported that material from MDOT would be delivered at the May 16 meeting of the Subcommittee for highways and the cost of ancillary features of highways.

Housekeeping

Mr. Struck noted that only six hours of meeting time remain before presentation of the draft report of the Subcommittee. He suggested sending Subcommittee minutes to the other subcommittees, and inviting them to send issues relative to highways and roads. Mr. Struck asked whether a standard format was to be devised for the subcommittee reports.

There was a discussion of whether the Subcommittee would need to meet after delivering its report to the Intermodal Subcommittee. It was suggested that the Subcommittee would probably need to continue to meet into October to supply the “why” to the Task force for revisions to revenue.

Old Business

TF2 Web Site: Tim Hoeffner of MDOT reported that information and data are being posted to the TF2 web site, and size of storage has been increased.

April 21 Meeting of Transportation Finance Task Force: At the April 21, 2008 meeting of the Task Force, members wanted to be shown what it would take to improve and maintain the system to “good” condition. The Asset Management report has now been approved.

There was a discussion of reporting the condition of non-federal-aid eligible mileage. The Kent County Road Commission reported that it is surveying other road commissions that use the RoadSoft program to assess their whole systems, and that these counties will provide at least an illustration of needs on the (largely unpaved) local road system.

Crash Data: Mr. Struck distributed information from the Office of Highway Safety Planning on the cost of crashes. More inquiry will be needed to determine how much of this might be attributed to road infrastructure, both condition and capacity. Anecdotal cases may illustrate the relationship.

New Business

Dave Juntunen of MDOT explained national standards for bridge inspection and reporting (a standard 0–9 scale, where 0 = closed, “poor” = 1–4, “fair” = 5–6, and “good” = 7–9. If one major element is “poor” the whole bridge is described as “poor.” Bridge condition data are tabulated by deck area, condition state, and route classification.

Graphics displayed the improvement in condition following increased bridge spending flowing from increased revenues and bridge appropriations. Michigan improved from having nation’s second-worst bridge condition in 1998 to 14th worst in 2008 in terms of structurally-deficient bridges. Under current revenues, freeway bridge condition will plateau at 87% “good.” Local bridges will begin to decline in condition in 2009 from a high of 84% “good.”

Kim Nowack of the Mackinac Bridge Authority described the inspection procedures used to develop the work program for the Mackinac Bridge. Graphics described the relationship between the recent toll increase, Bridge fund balances, and the schedule of expenditures that includes deck and beam replacement starting in 2017. Traffic on the bridge is falling from a high of 5 million crossings annually toward 4 million.

Reports of Subcommittee Activities

Brent Bair of CRAM distributed a draft of a suggested Subcommittee report outline prepared by RCOG staff.

As the report is expanded, the Subcommittee will want more graphs showing anticipated declines in condition, and emphasizing the decline in the purchasing power of revenues.

RCOC has queried CRAM and MML members for their spending on ancillary road features.

The draft report outline will be e-mailed to absent Subcommittee members, with a request for advice and additional material and graphs. Some of the bridge information presented at today's meeting will be added.

Future Meetings: Mr. Struck asked what information is wanted for future meetings, especially on rural issues and cost inflation. Each future meeting will include review of the Subcommittee report.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.